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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 003958

SIPDIS

INFO IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
CPA BAGHDAD PRIORITY

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: MAY 19 JORDAN-IRAQ REPORT: NGO COORDINATION,
VIOLENCE, POOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MINISTRIES

Classified By: DCM David Hale for reason 1.5(b), (d)

1. (U) This is another of post's periodic wrap up cables on Iraqi items as seen from Amman. We report these views without assessing their validity.

NGO LACK OF COORDINATION

2. (U) Iraqi Reconstruction and Development Council rep Bushra Jamil Samarai cited poor communication between Iraqi Ministries and NGO duplication of efforts as problems in expanding the role of NGOs in Iraq at an NGO Roundtable and Luncheon in Amman on May 18. She said that the ministries continue to have a "centralization" mind-set and do not know to what offices to direct NGO reps who come to Iraq. She used the recent clashes in Fallujah as an example of exceptional NGO behavior where approximately sixty NGOs immediately offered humanitarian assistance. However, she said, the NGOs and the ministries' personnel in Fallujah did not communicate well due to the lack of a system to coordinate their efforts. NGO's duplication of work is a continuing problem. She suggested that the best way to avoid these problems in the future would be to create associations of NGOs (based on similar specialty fields) which would elect one representative to coordinate among the other internal NGO associations and Iraq ministries and with NGOs outside of Iraq.

3. (U) NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI) rep Elodie Cantier-Aristide alleged that Iraqis see NGOs as political entities and do not differentiate them from the coalition and private sub-contractors. This is due to the lack of coordination among NGOs, the coalition, and private sub-contractors. She also cited a lack of "humanitarian space," NGOs work in close proximity to coalition forces and private sub-contractors and thus become publicly associated with them. A further problem is the Iraqi tendency to assume that any private group or association must have religious or political ties. These problems, she claimed, limit NGO effectiveness in Iraq. She opined that it was critical that the social reconstruction of Iraq remain under the purview of private groups, not the military.

4. (C) At a separate meeting on May 19, International NGO urged post's Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (HACC) office to help ensure that the coalition does not infringe upon their "humanitarian space". The NGO reps criticized the recent Spanish and Japanese application of the phrase "humanitarian" in describing military operations or deployments. This action blurred any separation between NGO and military efforts, in Iraqi eyes.

ESTABLISHING LEGAL STATUS OF NGOS

5. (U) Iraq Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, Dr. Faik Abdul Rasool, said that there is a new office at the ministry with the purpose of assessing and registering NGOs. Rasool said that over 1500 NGO applications for registration have been received at the ministry so far, with 100 registration certificates issued.

JOBS AND VIOLENCE IN IRAQ

6. (C) Baghdad City Council Member Shatha Al-Obeidi told PolOff at the NGO Roundtable that 55 Baghdad City Council members have been killed since the end of the war. She asserted that the on-going violence is related to the lack of jobs in Baghdad and Iraq. She referred to Moqtada Al-Sadr's followers as an example of the problem; claiming they are young men without jobs who joined the Mahdi Army not out of belief in Al-Sadr's cause, but from frustration with lack of employment.

POOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES

17. (C) Iraq's Charge in Amman, Ma'an Barakat, told PolOff that he has received no recent instructions from the Iraq MFA. Barakat said that he has repeatedly requested assistance from the MFA to establish passport-issuing authority in the Mission and to hire additional staff but has yet to receive a response. When asked about a future Ambassador, he said that the MFA has not discussed this with him. Barakat said that while his telephone communications with the MFA are good, it is difficult to communicate with other ministries as their telephone lines are frequently inoperable. He cited his recent inability to request basic office supplies as particularly frustrating. He was unsure if the problem was due to bad phone lines and/or lack of communication and coordination between the MFA and other Ministries.

18. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

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